



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department for the Aging

Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Jay W. DeBoer, J.D., Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: November 8, 2005

SUBJECT: National Family Caregivers Month

Thank you to all professional and family caregivers as we celebrate National Family Caregivers Month, November 2005. The National Family Caregiver Theme for this year is ***Caring Every Day***. Promoted by the National Family Caregiver Association, the theme emphasizes three steps for caregivers to take every day to make their lives easier, improve care and raise awareness about caregiver dedication to their loved ones. The themes include: believe in yourself, protect your health and, reach out for help. For more information on National Family Caregivers Month, consult the National Family Caregiver Association website at www.nfcs.org.

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

A paper issued by the NGA Center for Best Practices in June of 2005 highlights what states are doing to aid the estimated 44.4 million individuals nationwide who care for family and friends and the paid workers who assist elders. The paper is authored by Lynn Friss Feinberg, Deputy Director, National Center on Caregiving at Family Caregiver Alliance; Gail Hunt, President and CEO, National Alliance for Caregiving; Steve Dawson, President and Holly Turnham, Michigan Policy Director, Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute; Diane Braunstein, Melanie Starns and, Joy M. Cameron of the NGA Center for Best Practices.

The NGA Center for Best Practices is currently involved in a multi-year project sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help states respond to the needs of an increasing number of elderly in the United States. For further information on this initiative and its reports, issue briefs, regional forums and customized technical assistance visit the NGA Center for Best Practices at www.nga.org.

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